Recommendation for Change of Accreditation Status for
Mills College
Professional Services Division
February 2010

Overview of this Report
This agenda item presents a report on the responses Mills College to the stipulations noted in their March 2008 Site Visit. The item includes a recommendation for a change in Mill's accreditation status.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends that the COA change the accreditation decision for Mills College from *Accreditation with Stipulations* to *Accreditation*.

Background
In April 2009, a site visit team recommended that the COA grant Accreditation with Stipulations to Mills College.

The findings that led to the stipulations were identified in the report as follows:

The team identified concerns about program operation, but the concerns are primarily focused on matters of documentation of systematic evaluation of program operation and consistent documentation of student performance. These concerns were not related to the elements of curriculum effectiveness, fieldwork experience or candidate competence. The evidence available suggested programs prepare candidates to function effectively in placements appropriate to their credential. However, the accreditation recommendation reflects the findings of the team that there was not systematic, consistent, unit-wide **documentation** of program effectiveness and candidate competence.

Based upon the findings, three stipulations were noted. Unit and program leadership at Mills College addressed each of the three stipulations. Evidence was submitted and, following a staff review of the evidence, a phone conference was held to clarify and confirm the information.

The stipulations and responses to the stipulations are as follows:

1. *Common Standard 2: That the School of Education, in order to provide documentation of program effectiveness, develop and implement a unit-wide assessment system and consistently apply that system across the unit programs.*

2. *Common Standard 9: That the School of Education develop and implement a unit-wide system to document the competence of candidates, in relation to all aspects of competence identified in the Commission-adopted program standards for all programs within the unit.*

The School of Education has developed a plan to better document the assessment work taking place across the unit for credential programs. This plan has several parts:

a)   The assessment plan from the 2005 School of Education self-study was discussed and a plan to coordinate and compile documentation on the assessment work was developed.

b)   Each program has documented relevant student assessment data in our reports to the team. Information on assessment in areas in which the Team did not find sufficient documentation are included in this set of materials. This assessment work will include the student portfolios described in attached documents for the ASC Tier I and Tier II programs and also the documents outlined in the plans specified for your visit – e.g., PACT, student teaching evaluations, student portfolios, etc. In addition, we are including, in an attached document the plan for assessing the legal aspects of TPE 12 in our MS and SS Teacher Education programs. The other aspects of TPE 12 are measured in PACT and student teaching evaluations.

c)   Summary data from these assessments will be organized and presented to the Dean of the School of Education in September of every year for the previous year's graduates. The purpose of these charts is the for Dean of the School of Education to have ready access to summary data on each program in order that he or she may plan for subsequent program revision work. These summary charts to be provided to the Dean are included below, and their focus is on measurements of student performance in each relevant standard or area. These charts indicate the percentage of students who achieved competency in each standard are highlighted. In addition, the Program Director for each program (ASC; MS and SS Teacher Preparation; ECE SPED) will provide a brief summary report identifying any areas of weakness that need attention.

d)   Each fall, the faculty of each program will use this summary data to assess their program and plan program revisions to address areas of weakness revealed in the data from the student assessments.

e)   Early in the spring, each program head will meet with the Dean to discuss program strengths and weaknesses revealed in the data and review the program's plan for implementing relevant changes. This meeting is a prerequisite for the development of new courses, program or staffing changes that the program revision plan entails, and so this meeting will take place before relevant College deadlines

3. *MS/SS Standard 2 Collaboration: That the Multiple and Single Subject programs involve partners to collaborate in developing program policies and reviewing program practices. The unit needs to involve constituents such as (but not limited to) business representatives and teachers' bargaining agents.*

Three members have been added to advisory board; two from businesses and a union representative from Oakland USD. Two meeting dates and times were noted—one in fall and one in spring. In addition, meetings with this Advisory Board will be structured to solicit

Board Members' input on program policies and data regarding our program will be shared with Board members to ensure their informed input on our program practices and on ways to enhance program effectiveness. This input will be recorded and used to inform our process of ongoing program development.

Staff Finding

After review of the documentation submitted by Mills College and a phone conversation to confirm the development and implementation of the artifacts submitted, staff has concluded that the Mills College has addressed all standards which were not found to be met during the 2009 accreditation site visit and provided evidence that it has responded to all three stipulations. Therefore, staff recommends that the COA take action to change the accreditation decision for Mills College from *Accreditation with Stipulations* to *Accreditation*.